

VEHICLE PROWL PREVENTION



Vehicle prowls are the theft of property from a motor vehicle. Most are crimes of opportunity through unlocked doors and open windows where victims usually encounter expensive vehicle damage—especially to their windows, doors and locks. Large parking locations like shopping centers, housing communities, parks and schools are prime targets for a prowler since multiple vehicles can be hit in a short time span. Also, prowlers know odds are good that someone will leave a door unlocked, a window down or keys in the ignition.

Unfortunately, vehicle prowls are very common, Luckily, they are preventable. Use these easy and inexpensive tips to reduce your risk of becoming a victim of vehicle prowling.

PARKING & SECURING YOUR VEHICLE

- ◇ Use a garage or secure location whenever possible.
- ◇ Park in well lit areas where your car can be seen.
- ◇ Avoid isolated areas. Park near locations frequently used by pedestrians.
- ◇ If you hear something suspicious (shattering glass) or see someone looking into vehicles, call 911.
- ◇ Roll up the windows and lock all doors.
- ◇ Secure the trunk, hatches, bed mounted tool boxes, and canopies.
- ◇ Activate your alarm.
- ◇ Install anti-theft devices.

REMOVE THESE ITEMS:

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| ◇ Cameras | ◇ Garage door opener | ◇ Receipts/statements |
| ◇ CD players and CD's | ◇ GPS unit | ◇ Store bags or packages |
| ◇ Cell Phones | ◇ Jewelry | ◇ Tools |
| ◇ Checkbooks | ◇ Keys | ◇ Vehicle insurance, title and registration information |
| ◇ Clothing | ◇ Laptop | ◇ Wallets |
| ◇ Credit/debit, gift cards | ◇ Luggage or bags | |
| ◇ Day planner | ◇ Mail | |
| ◇ Electronic devices | ◇ Purses | |

ANTI-THEFT DEVICES:

- ◇ Steering wheel locking devices are easy to install and inexpensive.
- ◇ Car alarms are convenient and effective-especially if they disable the vehicle's starter when activated.
- ◇ Install switches to interrupt the fuel supply or electrical systems.
- ◇ Locking gas caps deters fuel from being siphoned.

TIPS

Lock your doors & windows.
Prowls are crimes of opportunity!

Remove your personal property.
Take away the likelihood of being a victim.

Use anti-theft devices.
Utilize visual deterrents.